GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:73
ANSWERED ON:28.11.2005
AFFORESTATION PROGRAMME
Appadurai Shri M.;Patil Smt. Rupatai Diliprao Nilangekar

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the steps being taken currently by the Government for increasing the forest cover in the country ;

(b) the funds allocated to each State under the National Afforestation Programme (NAP) during the last three years and thereafter;

(c) whether any Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) has been involved in such a programme;

(d) if so, the details thereof ;

(e) the additional area brought under the cover through this programme ;

(f) the revenue earned from forest resources during the last three years, State- wise and year-wise;

(g) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to stop further destruction of forest resources by forest mafia and others indicating the number of such cases reported during the above period; and

(h) the efforts being made to bring 33% area of the country under forest cover ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA)

(a) to (h) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in reply to parts (a), (b), (c), (d), (e), (f), (g), and (h) of Lok Sabha Starred Question N`o.73 to be replied on 28.11.2005

(a) The Ministry of Environment and Forests has launched a major afforestation initiative called the National Afforestation Programme (NAP), during the Tenth Five Year Plan for regeneration of degraded forests and adjoining lands through people`s participation. The people-centric approach is manifest in the two-tier` decentralized institutional set-up of Forest Development Agencies

(FDAs) at the forest division level and Joint Forest Management Committees

(JFMCs) at the village level for the implementation of NAP.

(b)State-wise funds released during the last three years and so far during the current financial year under NAP is given in the Annexure - I.

(c)and (d) Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) are also involved in the awareness regeneration and for concomitant evaluation of FDA projects under NAP in the States. Details of such NGOs are maintained at the FDA level,

(e)650 FDA projects have been approved under NAP as on 22.1) .2005 to treat a total project area of 8.89 lakh hectares upto the Tenth Five Year Plan.

(f)State-wise revenue earned from forest resources for 2001-02, 2002-03 and 2003-04 is given in the Annexure - II.

(g)The Ministry of Environment and Forests has launched an Integrated Forest Protection Scheme, primarily for strengthening the infrastructure for protection of forests to control illicit fellings, fires, encroachment, etc. In three years from 2001-02 to 2003-04, 6,46,052 cases of illicit felling have been reported in different States.

(h) The following steps have been taken to increase the forest cover in the country : -

(i) For creating awareness and sensitisation about the subject, consultations with State Governments, Union Territories Administrations, other Ministries of Government of India, research institutes and non-government organizations have been held. State Forest Ministers` Conference held on 5-6 August 2004 also deliberated on the issue in great detail.

(ii) State Government and Union Territories Administrations have been requested to formulate and implement a comprehensive Media Plan to create mass awareness about tree planting.

(iii) Guidelines for rationalization of felling and transit regulations for tree species grown on non-forest private lands have been issued to the State Governments and Union Territories Administrations to encourage private tree plantation.

(iv) State Government and Union Territories Administrations have been requested to constitute Chief Secretary-level Committee of all land owning and other concerned Departments, and also involve them in tree planting activities.

(v) Multi-Stakeholder Partnership (MSP), involving State Forest Department, the local village community and the private industry (sponsor), has been mooted for forestation of degraded lands.

(vi) A new component has been added in the National Afforestation Programme to extend joint forest management (JFM) to all 1.73 lakh forest- fringe villages in the country.

(vii) Planning Commission has given in-principle approval for National Bamboo Mission whereunder bamboo plantation will be encouraged on forest and non- forest lands.